PRESS RELEASE

Macedonian IT Experts Complete U.S. Computer Security Training

Fifty nine systems managers and systems architects from various Macedonian government agencies have successfully completed computer security training courses and will receive certificates issued by Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The training was held in Macedonia, carried out by the Alexandria Training Center. It was sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) East Central European Scholarship Program, and by the e-Gov Project, which is supported by USAID/Macedonia. USAID is part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia.

"Many agencies in the Macedonian Government are at an early stage in their information technology (IT) development, and even the leaders are only starting to come to grips with security in the total sense, especially as it applies to new systems in many fields, particularly the financial sector," says Jovce Plastinovski, Deputy Chief of Party of the USAID e-Gov Project.

 "With the knowledge and skills acquired during the training program the trainees should be able to focus on practical application of IT security and to raise the level of awareness of IT security in general in their institutions."

As a result of the training, the ability of the Macedonian Government to secure the information it stores and transmits between government agencies will be enhanced, as will its ability to deliver services to the public. Increased IT security capacity allows for a greater use of IT which, in turn, can lead to better-managed governmental institutions that are more transparent and efficient.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than $450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth $30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit http://macedonia.usaid.gov

USAID's e-Gov project assists the Government of Macedonia and its institutions to increase efficiency and transparency by using information and communications technology, making Macedonia more attractive to potential investors. For more information, please visit www.e-gov.org.mk or e-mail Vanja Mirkovski, e-Gov Press Officer, at vanja.mirkovski@internews.org